

## [K. Heisler]

[Dup?]

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Emanuel Verschleiser

ADDRESS 1419 Jesup Ave. Bronx

DATE Dec. 12, 1938

SUBJECT JEWISH FOLK TALES - (HIESHER) 12/27/38

1. Date and time of interview Dec. 8
2. Place of interview 1886 Harrison Ave.
3. Name and address of informant K. Heisler 1886 Harrison Ave.
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Man - A Yiddish poets heard these stories in his home town - Komarno Galicia

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FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

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NAME OF WORKER Emanuel Verschleiser

ADDRESS 1419 Jesup Ave. Bronx

DATE Dec. 12, 1938

SUBJECT JEWISH FOLK TALES (HEISHER) A TALE ABOUT A PIOUS MAN WHO WENT TO PARADISE ALIVE.

The great Rabbi Joshua was wrapped up all his life in the study of the Torah and knew little about the everyday world. A man doesn't live forever. His time came and God said; to the Angel of Death: Go to Reb Joshua, take his holy soul and bring it before my throne but I command you that whatever he ask of you thou it be the biggest and hardest thing you shall give it to him... Not many such pious men live on the earth...

The angel went to carry out God's command and he come to Reb Joshua. He stood before him and said: "Your time has come and you must leave this world for the other world. God himself sent me to you that I should take your soul to Him".... But before I ake you soul God has commanded me to fulfill one wish of yours. It my be hard to fulfill but I will do it. Because you found favor in God's eyes... So consider well... Any desire I will do it even if it is most difficult, because you found favor in God's eyes... Well, what is your wish?

2

I ask of you - said Reb Joshua — that you show me my place in Paradise...

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Your request is very difficult to fulfill - the angel answered - but alas I have to fulfill God's wish... Get ready .. You will not be able to enter paradise but we will come near the wall of paradise and you will be able to see your place looking thru a gateway.

Reb Joshua was afraid to follow him. How can one believe the Angel of Death? Just when I will be contemplating something he will use his knife on my throat and there will be no help for it... Such a fellow isn't to be trusted. Come and lose no time - the Angel of Death said—you have only a few minutes to live...

If you want me to go with you - Reb Joshua said — give me your sword because I am greatly afraid of you.

The Angel of Death gave Reb Joshua his sword and let Reb Joshua thru valleys and deserts until they came to Paradise. The angel then lifted Reb Joshua to the wall of paradise and Reb Joshua saw all the pious men sitting in happiness and peace. At the sight of this he lost all desire to return to our world... Why should he have to die first in order to enter paradise... He would rather save himself the pains of dying and enter paradise alive... Without much ado he jumped over the fence into paradise. The Angel of Death has no right to enter paradise... So Reb Joshua remained there alive.

The Angel of Death went with a complaint to the Almighty that Reb Joshua deceived him... God answered: That isn't deceiving. To deceive the Angel of Death is permissible. You want to kill him so he has a right to try to get away from you. 3 A TALE ABOUT "KAPOYZER"

"Kapoyser" was an interesting type in our town. He was a water-carrier and composed songs and all day long told stories and jokes. Who can remember it all.

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When he was taken to the army during World War he wrote to his mother to send him a thick needle and thread. He wanted to sew together all barracks because the whole world became one barrack...